

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1853

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK XB

SUBJ: BHUTTO INTERVIEW IN DIE WELT

1. PAK PRESS AUGUST 30 HEADLINED HAMBURG-DATELINED STORY OF PREVIOUS DAY REPORTING PM BHUTTO'S INTERVIEW HERE WITH DIE WELT CORRESPONDENT HANS BARTH. INTERVIEW, A QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION, TOOK PLACE AROUND AUGUST 13 DURING BARTH'S BRIEF STOP IN PAKISTAN.

2. PROMINENCE GIVEN INTERVIEW REPORT, AND SPATE OF APPROVING EDITORIALS WHICH FOLLOWED, ALMOST CERTAINLY AT GOP SUGGESTION, AND TOP BILLING WHICH HEADLINE WRITERS INVARIABLY GAVE TO PM'S STRONG REITERATION OF HIS OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF AN ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM EXCLUDING PRC, ALL SUGGEST THAT INTERVIEW HAD GREATER SIGNIFICANCE THAN OTHER ACCOUNTS OF BHUTTO SESSIONS WIT FOREIGN NEWSMEN FREQUENTLY REPRINTED IN PAK PRESS. IN PARTICULAR, IT SEEMS TO

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REFLECT THE STRAINS IN PAK-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH

HAVE RECENTLY BEEN EVIDENT HERE. (ALTHOUGH BHUTTO DID NOT IN THE INTERVIEW REPORT CARRIED HERE MENTION SOVIET SPONSORSHIP OF THIS SYSTEM, IT WAS REMARKED IN SEVERAL EDITORIALS AND IS OF COURSE WELL KNOWN. POSSIBLY BECAUSE QUESTION MAY HAVE BEEN PHRASED THIS WAY, PM HIMSELF REFERRED TO IT AS AN "ASIAN HELSINKI").

3. IN DISCUSSING ASIAN SECURITY SYSTEM, PM TOOK FAMILIAR GOP POSITION THAT ASIAN TERRITORIAL DISPUTES, UNLIKE EUROPEAN ONES, REMAIN UNSETTLED, HENCE THERE NO REAL BASIS FOR PACT AT THIS TIME. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, AND PREFERRED BY BOTH HEADLINE WRITERS AND EDITORIALISTS (WHO TOOK OCCASION TO STRESS AGAIN CLOSE TIES BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND PRC) WAS CHINESE OPPOSITION AND FACT THAT "IN ASIA CHINA RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY TAKES THE VIEW THAT A COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT HAS THE SOLE PURPOSE TO ISOLATE PEKING". "ONCE TIME IS RIPE FOR A CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO SECURITY TO ALL STATES, INCLUDING THE PRC, PAKISTAN WILL NOT MAKE AN EXCEPTION", PM SAID.

4. OTHER POINTS. ASKED WHETHER HE BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON GOALS GO BEYOND ITS RECENT ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE PERMITTING PAKISTAN TO RESUME ARMS PURCHASES IN THE US AND REMOVE REMAINING OBSTACLES FOR FULL ARMS SALES, BHUTTO SAID ACCORDING REPORT THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS "ALREADY AN IMPORTANT STEP" AND THAT THERE ARE "NO GROUNDS WHY CONGRESS SHOULD BLOCK ARMS SHIPMENTS". ON PAK-GERMAN RELATIONS, HE REGRETTED THAT TIES WITH BONN ARE NOT AS GOOD AS BEFORE, PERHAPS BECAUSE AS A SMALLER COUNTRY PAKISTAN IS NO LONGER AS INTERESTING TO THE FRG AS IT WAS BEFORE 1971, AND EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS AT THE FRG'S RULING PAKISTAN INELIGIBLE AS AN AREA OF TENSION TO ACQUIRE ARMS FROM WEST GERMANY.
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